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PROSPECTS OF REFURBISHED WINTHROP SHORES HEIGHTENED AS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KERRY HEALEY TOURS SITE

WINTHROP - Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey noted today during her visit to Winthrop Shores that the administration fully supports the prospects of a refurbished beachfront along this coastal community.

Healey, along with Secretary of Environmental Affairs, (EOEA) Ellen Roy Herzfelder, and interim Commissioner for the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Steven Pritchard, visited the area to underscore the administration's budget proposal, which was submitted earlier this year, and includes \$2,000,000 funding for the project.

In addition to providing beach nourishment that involves 500,000 cubic yards of sand – which would establish a beachfront not seen in Winthrop in more than half a century – the project includes amenities and improvements identical to other similar projects in the Boston Harbor Beaches Program: i.e., benches, water fountains, shade shelters, foot and body showers and pedestrian safety improvements.

Construction could begin in the winter of 2005/06, with initial reconstruction of beach groins, repairs to seawalls and work on the storm drainage system. Once that is complete, the beach nourishment could begin. The estimated total cost of the project is \$12 to \$15 million.

“The long road towards reaching agreement about how to proceed along the Winthrop Shores shows began with the selection of a design team in 1999, and the involvement of residents and stakeholders here showed all of us, that you are truly dedicated to protecting this resource,” Healey said. “What the administration is showing today is that we’re ready to respond to those years of commitment on their behalf by supporting the overall vision that was achieved after countless hours of meetings, analysis and studies.”

Winthrop Shores Reservation is among the many “Back to the Beaches” refurbishing projects encompassing the system of mostly urban beaches, and parkways that the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) inherited from the former Metropolitan District Commission. (MDC). Among the other beaches that have been substantially upgraded in the last several years are Revere Beach and Wollaston Beach in Quincy.

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